

## THE MARINE FAUNA OF JAPAN.

*Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte Ostasiens.* Edited by Dr. F. Doflein. Japanische Alcyonaceen. By Prof. W. Kükenthal. Pp. 86+Tafel v. Price 4 marks. Japanische Gorgoniden. Teil i. Die Familien der Primnoiden, Muriceiden, und Acanthogorgiiden. By Prof. W. Kükenthal and H. Gorzawsky. Pp. 71+Tafel iv. Price 3.60 marks. Japanische gorgoniden. Teil ii. Die Familien der Plexauriden Chrysogorgiiden und Melitodiden. By Prof. W. Kükenthal. Pp. 78+Tafel vii. Price 6 marks. Hydroidpolyphen der japanische Ostküste. Teil i. Athecata und Plumularidæ. By E. Stechow. Pp. 109+Tafel vii. Price 5 marks. Japanische Antipatharien. By E. Silberfeld. Pp. 30+Tafel ii. Price 2.50 marks. Japanische Medusen. By O. Maas. Pp. 52+Tafel iii. Price 4 marks. Japanische Actinien. By Dr. A. Wassilieff. Pp. 52+Tafel ix. Price 2.70 marks. Japanische Ctenophoren. By Dr. Fanny Moser. Pp. 77+Tafel ii. Price 5 marks. Über japanische Seewalzen. By E. Augustin. Pp. 44+Tafel ii. Price 3 marks. (München: K. B. Akademie der Wissenschaften, G. Franz'schen Verlags, J. Roth, 1906-9.)

IT has been known for some time to zoologists that the southern coasts of Japan possess a very rich and varied marine fauna. The *Challenger* expedition gave us some indication of it, and various special memoirs by Japanese writers that have appeared in recent years have served to maintain and stimulate our interest in it. But the nine memoirs dealing with the collections made by Dr. F. Doflein in the Sagami and Sendai bays during the years 1904-5 bring home to us with great effect the amazing wealth with which our Japanese friends are favoured in respect of their submarine zoological treasures.

Dr. Doflein is a fortunate, and also undoubtedly a skilful, collector, for he has not only obtained a very large quantity of material, and succeeded in bringing it home in an excellent state of preservation, but he has been able to enlist the services of a number of eminent zoologists with special knowledge of the various groups, and to publish these memoirs in sumptuous style. Judging from the series already published, there can be little doubt that the results of Dr. Doflein's expedition will form a very important contribution to our knowledge of the systematic zoology of the Japanese waters.

For the three memoirs on Alcyonaria, Prof. Kükenthal, of Breslau, is very largely responsible, and those who are interested in this group of Coelenterata will find in them descriptions of a large number of new species, profusely illustrated by coloured plates and photographs. Prof. Kükenthal is so well known as a leading authority on the Alcyonaria that it is hardly necessary to remark that his elaborate descriptions of the new species and his profound knowledge of the history and literature of the group give his contributions to the series a very high position. But although there is a great deal that is new in these three memoirs, there is no new genus that strikes us as being particularly interesting or important. Among

the Alcyonacea, the genus *Spongodes* (which has been re-named *Dendronephthya* by the author) is represented by fifteen species, of which six are new to science, and *Nidalia* by seven species, of which five are new. The genus *Alcyonium*, on the other hand, is represented by only one species, which is described under the new specific name of *Alcyonium gracillimum*. A new species of *Siphonogorgia* having been found in Sagami bay, the author takes the opportunity of giving us a very valuable summary of the characters of all the known species of the genus, including in the list the species formerly separated under this generic name *Chironephthya*.

The title "Japanische Gorgoniden" given to the other two memoirs on Alcyonaria is rather misleading, as the family Gorgonidæ has not yet been dealt with; but it is nevertheless in the suborder Gorgonacea rather than in the Alcyonacea that the richness of the Japanese fauna is so pronounced. The genera *Chrysogorgia*, *Melitodes*, and *Plumarella* appear to be particularly well represented, and in the family Plexauridæ two new genera, *Anthoplexaura* and *Paraplexaura*, are described, as well as several new species of the older genus *Euplexaura*.

The memoir on the hydroid polyps by Stechow is in some respects the most remarkable and valuable of the series, and special attention may be directed to the interesting introductory statement, and particularly to his valuable tabular scheme of the classification of the hydrozoa. Many previous attempts have been made to bring into one system the hydroid and medusoid forms belonging to this class. On careful analysis and consideration, this system will probably be found by systematists to be the best that has yet been suggested. Of the many interesting hydroids that are described in this memoir, the most remarkable is the one to which the new generic name *Hydrichthella* is given. It was found epizoic on the new alcyonarian *Anthoplexaura* described by Kükenthal. It is a curious coincidence in zoology that the only other example of a hydroid epizoic upon an alcyonarian was also described last year. On January 30, 1909, a paper by Miss W. Coward was read before the Koninklijke Akad. van Wetenschappen of Amsterdam on a new hydroid (*Ptilocodium*) epizoic on specimens of the genus *Ptilosarcus* collected by the *Siboga* expedition. In the same year Stechow described the genus *Hydrichthella* on *Anthoplexaura*. There can be little doubt that the two genera are very closely related, but it is more than probable that it will be found advisable to join them in one generic group. If this be done the question of priority will arise, and the name will be *Ptilocodium* or *Hydrichthella* according to the publication of Stechow's memoir before or after January 30.

The genus *Dendrocoryne* of Inaba found in Japanese waters has created some special interest of recent years owing to its relationship to the genus *Ceratella*, that occurs in Australian waters, on the east coast of Africa, off Hawaii, and elsewhere. The points of difference between *Dendrocoryne* and *Ceratella* do not appear to some authors sufficiently im-

portant or constant to justify their separation into two genera, but a very strong protest must be made against this author's practice of reviving the obsolete generic name *Solanderia* for *Ceratella* and throwing the literature into confusion thereby. M. Haime, who examined the type-specimen of *Solanderia* (Duch. and Michel.), declared that it was undoubtedly a Gorgonid. The genus was therefore rightly ignored by Gray, and the magnificent memoir by Baldwin Spencer on *Ceratella fusca* has firmly established the proper generic name once and for all time.

Of the other memoirs in this series, the space at our disposal does not allow us to make more than passing notice. We observe some excellent coloured plates in the account by Maas of the Japanese medusæ, and we are glad to observe that the wandering genera *Gonionemus* and *Olindioides* are becoming more definitely settled in the order *Trachomedusæ*. The *Ctenophora* do not seem to be very well represented in the Japanese fauna, but Dr. Fanny Moser's memoir on this group is a very important contribution to our knowledge of several of the important genera, as the author takes the opportunity to give a critical summary of all the known species of the *Lobatae*, *Beroidæ*, and *Cestidæ*.

Silberfeld adds to his account of the few new Japanese *Antipatharia* a useful list of all the species of the order that have been described since the publication of Brook's *Challenger* monograph.

The memoirs by Augustin on the *Holothuria*, and by Wassilieff on the sea anemones, fully maintain the high standard of excellence that marks the earlier numbers.

S. J. H.

#### THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC ORATOR.

*Orationes et Epistolæ Cantabrigienses* (1876-1909).

By Dr. John Edwin Sandys. Pp. xiv+290. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 10s. net.

THIS very attractive volume, bound in the light blue which stands for the colour of Cambridge, contains the Latin speeches and letters which for thirty-three years Dr. Sandys has delivered as public orator for the University of Cambridge. In 1909 Dr. Merry, the public orator of Oxford, published his admirable orations, delivered in the Sheldonian Theatre during thirty years, and in the same year, by a curious chance, appeared a volume containing 141 brief speeches delivered by three successive public orators of Trinity College, Dublin—Drs. Palmer, Tyrrell, and Purser.

It was a strange coincidence that in the course of a year the two great universities of England and the most ancient university of Ireland should have given to the world these characteristic effusions of university sentiment. This form of literary composition will appeal in a different way to different minds. But none will fail to see in it a somewhat interesting specimen of an art now obsolescent and destined, perhaps, soon to pass away, which recalls the time when Latin was the *lingua franca* of the learned world, and when the universities affected to convey their sentiments only in the learned tongue.

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So long as this time-honoured custom is observed, it will recommend itself by the happy classical turn of phrase and the ingenious adaptation of Latin idiom to very post-classical themes, to which the public orator must often have recourse; and of these arts Dr. Sandys is a past-master. His career in Cambridge was most brilliant, and among other distinctions he won the coveted Porson prize. He was at once designated successor as public orator to that great composer in Greek and Latin, the late Sir Richard Jebb. His orations are characterised by an elegance of Latinity and a felicity of allusion quite worthy of his distinguished predecessor. The public orations not only excite the interest of scholars, but sometimes evoke humorous comment from the undergraduates, as when Dr. Travers-Twiss at Oxford found a flight of superlatives (in which such speeches naturally abound) capped from the gallery by a new adjective. "*Illustrissimus, præclarissimus*," said the orator; "*et Travers-Twissimus*" was the contribution of an inglorious undergraduate rival.

The *éloges* in the volume before us are not only charming examples of polished Latinity, but they are admirable specimens of brief and pointed criticism. A man's work is often summed up in a few words which could not be bettered in as many pages. One specimen of this delicate art will serve *instar omnium*. The great poet and critic, Matthew Arnold, writes thus to Dr. Sandys:—

"A thousand thanks for the printed copies of your speeches which you have so kindly sent to me. I am glad the speeches are in this permanent form. For myself I can only say that I could wish the next age (if the next age inquires at all about me) to read no other and no longer character of me than yours."

The reader should turn to the *éloge* (No. 71, p. 39) to see that the words of Matthew Arnold are justified. For those who have not the book we will make an extract, which shrewdly characterises Arnold's dealings with the Philistines, his *εὐτραπεία*, "cultured insolence," as Aristotle calls it, and another which compares his style to the Thames by which he was born, "Though deep yet clear, though gentle yet not dull":—

"Quam suaviter subamarus est quotiens Attico quodam lepore et salibus quicquid insulsum est irridet, Graeca quadam elegantia quicquid barbarum est contemnit. De gravioribus vero argumentis, quanto animi candore, quanta subtilitate, disputat. Idem poëta quam venustus, quam varius."

"Equidem crediderim Thamesin ipsum inter rura illa fluentem, ubi poëta ipse natus erat, alumno suo exemplar suum praetulisse, suum ingenium inspirasse; qui annis, poëtarum laudibus celebratus, tranquillius at non tardus it, profundus at pellucidus idem est."

How happily he alludes to the work of Huxley:—

"Olim in oceano Australi, ubi rectis 'oculis monstra natantia' vidit, victoriam prope primam, velut alter Perseus, a Medusa reportavit; varias deinceps animantium formas, quasi ab ipsa Gorgone in saxum versas, sagacitate singulari explicavit; vitae denique universae explorandae vitam suam totam dedicavit."

And we must quote his reference to Joseph Chamberlain's "grand refusal" of the Home Rule Bill, and his allusion to the great statesman's love for orchids.